

Code Section: 9.3.7

Standard Edition: 2000

Date: September 19, 2000

Statement of Need:

The installation of visible alarm devices in Parking Garages present some unique application issues. Garages are identified as being covered by accessibility standards and are often used for other functions or events. Parking garages inherently create placement problems for notification devices.

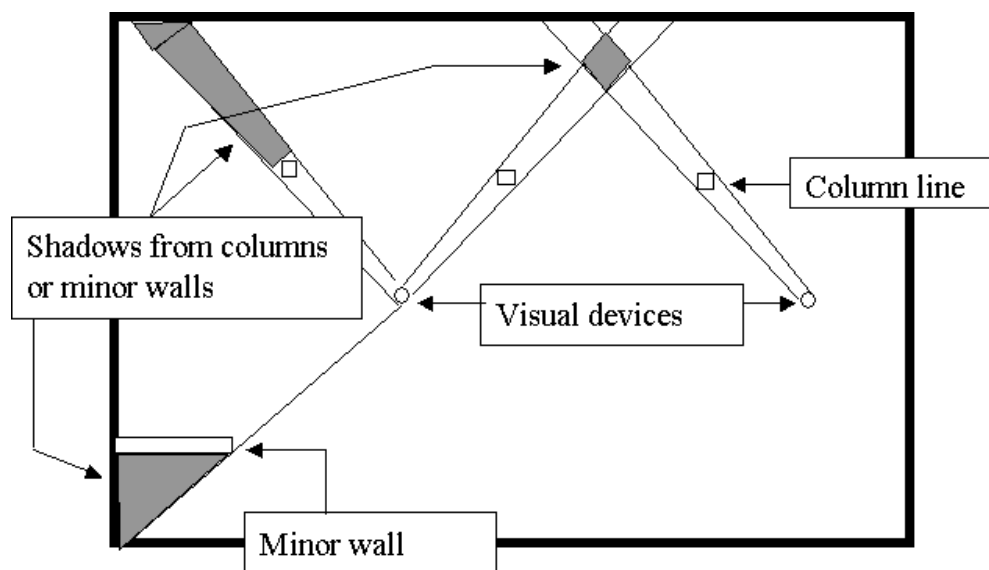
Ruling/Interpretation:

Strobe Placement in Parking Garages:

Visual notification devices shall be provided in parking garages with alarm systems in accordance with RFDS 9.3.7. That section refers to NFPA 72, Chapter 6, for placement and identifies one exception for height. The following clarification will assist the designer in complying with RFDS 9.3.7.

1. Top decks of parking garages shall have audible and visual devices placed at stairwells or elevator lobbies, and one visual device placed at the middle of the edge of the deck where the ramp goes down to the next lower level. These devices shall be a minimum of 110 candela.
2. Mounting height shall not be less than the clear height for vehicles entering the garage. Ceiling mount devices are allowed.
3. Parking stalls and drive lanes shall be covered using criteria from NFPA 72, Chapter 6 except for mechanical spaces, ramps less than 24' wide, and "shadows" from columns or minor walls. Devices shall be placed to minimize these "shadows." No shadows shall be allowed in drive aisles. See illustration below.

Illustration of "shadows" from columns or minor walls.



Robert Lovett
Fire Marshal